

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BORDEA 00048 031716Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
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AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS BORDEAUX 0048

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, FR
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BARRE S CAMPAIGN SPEECH IN BORDEAUX
MARCH 1.

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BARRE COVERED HIS USUAL POINTS IN A
MAJOR SPEECH IN BORDEAUX. JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS, WHO SPOKE
FIRST, SURPRISED THE AUDIENCE WITH A STIRRING PLEA FOR SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND AGAINST COMPLACENCY OF THE FORTUNATE. END SUMMARY.

PRIME MINISTER BARRE S SPEECH BEFORE AN INVITED AUDIENCE OF
ABOUT TWO THOUSAND IN BORDEAUX, MARCH ONE COVERED FAMILIAR
POINTS OF TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN FRANCE
DURING PAST 20 YEARS, WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS TRIGGERED BY OIL
PRICE MULTIPLICATION OF 1973 AND NECESSITY FOR HARD WORK AND
CAREFUL ECONOMIC POLICY TO OVERCOME EFFECTS OF THIS SETBACK.
HE THEN OUTLINED HOW THIS RECOVERY WOULD BE DESTROYED BY
ATTEMPTED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROMISES OF THE LEFT.

MR. BARRE STRUCK HARD AT TWO ELECTION CONCEPTS WHICH HE CONSIDERS
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VERY DANGEROUS:

FIRST, THE THEORY THAT A GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT WOULD BE SHORT-
LIVED AND PERHAPS CLEAR THE AIR. HE SAID, IT IS EASY TO
SLIDE DOWN A SLOPE IN A FEW DAYS OR A FEW MONTHS BUT IT TAKES
LONG HARD YEARS TO CLIMB BACK UP AGAIN.

SECOND, THE THOUGH, WHICH I REGRET HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY MENDES-FRANCE THAT A NARROW VICTORY OF THE PRESENT MAJORITY WOULD LEAD TO SOCIAL CHAOS. BARRE ASKED, WHY SHOULD A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CONSTITUTION PROVOKE CHAOS? IS IT NOT MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT THE (ECONOMIC) CRISIS MADE INEVITABLE BY AN ATTEMPT BY A GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT TO CARRY OUT ITS EXTREME PROGRAM WOULD RESULT IN CHAOS? OR IF, BY ANY CHANCE, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF POWER CAUSED THE LEFT TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF CARRYING OUT THEIR PROGRAM, THEN WHAT CHAOS WOULD BE PROVOKED BY THOSE WHO HAD BELIEVED THEIR PROMISES .

BARRE HAD MANY NICE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT BORDEAUX MAYOR AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS, RPR, WHO HAD SPOKEN BEFORE HIM AND INTRODUCED HIM. BARRE EVEN PRAISED CHABAN S CONCEPT OF A NEW SOCIETY AND SAID IT STILL HAD MUCH VALUE NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE.

CHABAN S RINGING SPEECH WAS MORE INTERESTING THAN BARRE S IN THAT IT WAS MORE ORIGINAL. HE STARTED WITH PRAISE AND PROMISE OF SUPPORT FOR BARRE AND GISCARD, A PEON ON THE NECESSITY OF INDEPENDANCE FOR FRANCE AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE HORRIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF A VICTORY OF THE LEFT. HE THEN SAID THAT, AS A LONGTIME ADVISOR TO DE GAULLE, HE KNEW THAT THE FRENCH HAD NOT ALWAYS TRIED TO CARRY OUT THE ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVES DE GAULLE HAD IN MIND. WITH THIS HE BEGAN THE REAL PURPOSE OF

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HIS SPEECH.

CHABAN SAID - TO BARRE - THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO EMPLOY TRADITIONAL METHODS TO TRY TO GET THE ECONOMY BACK INTO GEAR. HE SAID THAT LIFTING THE SUFFOCATING ADMINISTRATIVE YOKE OF PARIS COULD DO MORE IN A DAY TO REVIVE THE ECONOMY THAN TRADITIONAL METHODS COULD EVER DO. HE SAID THERE IS A DESPERATE NEED FOR DECENTRALIZATION TO LET THE PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THEIR OWN DESTINY. CHABAN THEN LAUNCHED INTO A DESCRIPTION OF THE MAJOR INJUSTICES WHICH STILL EXIST IN FRANCE PARTICULARLY FOR THE MOST DISADVANTAGED. HE REFERRED TO THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE SITUATION OF THE MOST PROSPEROUS ELEMENTS OF FRENCH SOCIETY AND THAT OF THE LEAST PROSPEROUS AS OBSCENE . POINTING A FINGER DIRECTLY AT HIS WELL DRESSED AUDIENCE, BUT SEEMING ALSO TO INCLUDE MR. BARRE, HE LAUNCHED AN ATTACK UPON THE COMPLACENCY OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT SUFFERING. HE SAID AN END TO THIS COMPLACENCY OF THE FORTUNATE WAS URGENT ON MORAL GROUNDS AS WELL AS TO CURE THE CURRENT SPLIT IN FRENCH SOCIETY. MANY IN THE AUDIENCE SAT ON THEIR HANDS DURING THE APPLAUSE FOR THIS POINT. I COULD NOT SEE MR. BARRE S REACTION. LOCAL CHABAN-WATCHERS WITH WHOM I HAVE SPOKEN SAY THAT THIS SPEECH REPRESENTS THE CLEARST MOVE

TO THE LEFT WHICH CHABAN HAS MADE. THEY SPECULATE THAT IT WAS
A WELL THOUGHT OUT MOVE TO POSITION HIMSELF FOR THE FUTURE.
THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT CHABAN HAD LAUNCHED A NEW
NEW-SOCIETY.

THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE BARRE MEETING WAS GENTEEL, EVEN
INCLUDING 18TH CENTURY CHAMBER MUSIC OVER THE LOUD SPEAKERS.
AUDIENCE REACTION LACKED THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE CHIRAC RALLY HERE.
MARVIN

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